THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS,

OF THE

General Assembly,

OF THE

CHURCH,

OF

SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, *February*. 2. 1700.

Collected, and Extracted, from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH, and Its ASSEMBLIES. *Anno Domini*, M. DCC.

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS, OF THE Generall Assembly, OF THE CHURCH, OF SCOTLAND;

Holden, and Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 2*d*. day of *February*, 1700, And Ending the 20 Day of that same Moneth.

I.

The Recording of His Majestie's Commission, To the Viscount of Seafeild, *for Representing His Majesty, in this* Assembly.

At *Edinburgh*, 2*d*. *February*, 1700. Sess. 1.

THIS Day, The General Assembly, of the Ministers and Elders, of this National Church, being conveened, There was produced to them, by a Noble Lord, *James Viscount* of *Seafeild*, Principal Secretary of State, for this Kingdom, His Majestie's Commission, under the Great Seal of this Kingdom, Nominating and Appointing him, to be *His Majestie's High Commissioner*, and Representative, in this *National Assembly*; Which was publickly Read, in Their Audience, with all due Honour and Respect; and appointed to be Recorded, in the Registers of this *Assembly*: Therein to remain, *ad futuram Rei Memoriam*. The Tenor whereof followes.

"GULIELMUS, Dei Gratia, Magnæ *Britanniæ*, *Franciæ*,
"& *Hiberniæ*, Rex, Fideique Defensor; *Omnibus* Probis
"Hominibus, ad quos præsentes Literæ nostræ pervenerint,
"*Salutem*: Quandoquidem, Ex Decreto Nostro, Generalis Ec-
"clesiæ Conventus, Antiquioris Regni Nostri *Scotiæ*, In *Secun-*
"*dum Diem* Mensis *Februarii*, *Anno Domini*, Millesimo Septin-
"gentesimo Continuatus erat; Nos autem abunde Cupidi, quin
"etiam necessarium esse Judicantes, in commodum dictæ Eccle-
"siæ, ut idem Generalis Conventus die statuto debite observe-
"tur; Sed rebus magni momenti alio vocantibus, dicto con-
"ventui, interesse nequimus; Cumque Fidelissimus & Dilectis-
"simus noster Consanguineus & Consiliarius, *Jacobus Vice Comes*
"de *Seafeild*, perplurima præclara edidit specimina, de Faculta-
"tibus suis eximiis, & Fidelitate insigni; unde nobis abunde sa-
"tisfactum est, Quod, ad munera Summi Officii inframentiona-
"ti, rite exercenda & obeunda, in finem supra expressum,
"usquequaque est Idoneus: *Noveritis* igitur nos fecisse & con-
"stituisse, sicuti per hasce nostras patentes literas, facimus, &
"constituimus, eundem *Jacobum Vice Comitem* de *Seafeild*, Su-
"premum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum infra-
"expressum; *Damus* pariter, & concedimus illi, Sacram no-
"stram Personam, & Authoritatem nostram Regalem, repræsen-
"tandi, præsentiam nostram supplendi, locumque nostrum, in
"dicto subsequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam Commissio-
"nario nostro, in hunc effectum, specialiter constituto, tenen-
"di, omniaque alia, ad imperium, & munus Commissionarii,
"pro Generali Ecclesiæ Conventu, peragendi, tam plene a-
"deoque libere, in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius, ejus-
"dem suprem muneris, & Characteris, fecerat, seu quovis
"tempore retroacto, facere poterat; atque sicuti nos ipsi, per-
"sonaliter præsentes, facere poterimus, pleniissimam & am-
"plissimam, nostram potestatem, & Commissionem. *Quaqui-*
"*dem* omnia, & singula, a dicto *Jacobo Vice Comite* de *Seafeild*,
"in hac nostra Commissione prosequenda, legitime facienda,
"nos firmiter Approbamus, Rati habemus & habituri sumus.
"*Omnibus* & singulis insuper, antedicti Conventus, & Ecclesiæ
"Pastoribus, & Presbyteris, & cæteris quibuscunque, hujus
"nostri regni subditis, cujuscunque qualitatis & conditionis,
"ut dictum *Jacobum Vice Comitem* de *Seafeild*, tanquam supre-
"mum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum & modum
"supramentionatum, Agnoscant, Revereantur, & Dicto ipsi-
"us audientes se præbeant, stricte Mandamus & Imperamus.
"*Ac* denique, hanc nostram Commissionem, a die, quo ma-
"gnum hujus Regni Nostri Sigillum, præsentibus est Appen-
"sum, & deinceps, hac Sessione sequenti Generalis Conven-
"tus antedicti, in vigore continuare declaravimus, & per

præsentes

"præsentes declaramus; Saltem usque dum, a nobis revo-
"cabitur. *In cujus Rei Testimonium*, præsentibus, magnum Si-
"gillum Nostrum, appendi Mandavimus, apud Aulam Nost-
"ram, de *Kensingtoun*, Undecimo die Mensis *Januarii*, *Anno*
"*Domini*, Millesimo Septingentesimo, Et *Anno* Regni nostri
"Undecimo.

Per Signaturam Manu S. D. N. *Regis Suprascriptam.*

{Locus Sigilli Appensi}

In DORSO.

Written to the Great Seal & Re- *Sealed at* Edinburgh, *the*
gistrate the first day of February *first of* February, 1700.
1700. *Charles Ker.* Al. Home.

II.

His MAJESTIE'S Gracious LETTER, TO THE *GENERAL ASSEMBLY.*

Eadem Sessione.

THE which Day, His Majestie's High Commissioner presented, His Majesties most Gracious Letter, directed to this General Assembly, which was publickly Read in their Hearing, with all due Honour and Respect, and appointed to be Recorded in their Registers: The Tenor whereof followes.

WILLIAM R.

RIGHT Reverend and well Beloved, we Greet You Well. The full and Satisfactory Accounts, we have had of the Proceedings of the former Assembly, and of the Commissions appointed by them, Do very much Encourage Us to countenance and allow Your Meeting at this time: And We doubt not, but You will Improve this Opportunity, to do what may be further necessary, for Promoting Religion: And as Your care hitherto, for supplying Vacant Churches,

with Pious and Able Ministers, has been very acceptable to Us, So We must Recommend to You, to continue in the same, for providing for such Churches, as are still Vacant; in which You shall not want Our Concurrence, and Assistance. The evident proofs, We have had, of the Experience and Fidelity, of Our Right Trusty and Entirely Beloved, Cousin and Councellor, *James, Viscount of Seafield*, Our Secretary of State, and of his Ability and Fitness, for Discharging such a Trust, has made Us chuse him, to Represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly; And We doubt not, but he will be acceptable to You. We have fully Instructed him, in all things needful, and You may give him entire Trust and Credit. You may assure Your selves, of Our Royal Protection, in all Your Concerns; And so Referring You, for what may be further necessary, to Our Commissioner, We bid You Heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at Kensingtoun, *the* 11*th, Day of* January 1700. *And of Our Reign the* 11*th, Year.*

By His Majestie's *Command,*

CARMICHAEL.

To the Right Reverend and well Beloved, the Moderator, Ministers *and* Elders, *of the General Assembly, of the Church, of Our Ancient Kingdom of* Scotland.

III.

The General Assemblies *Answer*,

TO

His Majesties Gracious Letter.

Edinburgh *February* 7. 1700. *Ante Meridiem*, Sess. 4.

May it please Your Majesty,

THE Continuance of Your Happy Reign over Us, through the Goodness of Our GOD, Doth more and more Confirm and Augment the Grateful Remembrance of Your Majestie's being raised up of GOD, to be the Glorious Deliverer of this Church, when We were brought to Great Distress, and ready to be Swallowed up; And Your Fatherly and Tender Care of Us, now again expressed, in Your most Gracious Letter to this Assembly, gives fresh Occasion to renew these Our Sincere Acknowledgements.

Your Majestie's favourable Acceptance, of the Proceedings of the last General Assembly, and its Commissions, do much Encourage Us to go on Vigorously, to Endeavour the Promoting of Religion, so far as We can in Our Stations, and the Planting the remaining Vacancies of Churches, which We find at this time, to be a great part of Our Work; and for which We have so full Assurance, of Your Royal Assistance.

The Experienced Ability, Fidelity and Loyalty, of the *Viscount of Seafield*, whom Your Majesty hath sent to Represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, and the many good Offices he hath done this Church, in the other Honourable Trusts, he hath born under Your Majesty, Do render Your Choice very Acceptable to Us.

That Your Majesty may Reign long and Prosperously, over these Kingdoms, and enjoy the sweet Fruits of Peace, Procured under GOD, by Your unparalleled Prudence and Valour; That Peace and Truth may Flowrish in Your Reign; That all Your Subjects may alwayes make suitable Returns of Gratitude, for the Hazards and Labours, You have undergone for their Repose; That GOD may guide Your Councils and Actings to His Glory, the Suppression of Immorality, the Ad-

vancement of Piety, Your own Comfort, and the Good of this Church and Nation; And that after You have ſerved GOD, in Your Generation, You may receive the Reward, of that Eternal Crown of Glory, that fadeth not away; Are the ſincere Prayers of

May it pleaſe Your Maieſty,

Your Majeſtie's moſt Faithful, moſt [illegible]ent, and moſt Humble Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly, of the Church of Scotland.

Signed, in Our Preſence, in Our Name, and at Our Appointment, by

D. Blair Moderator.

IV.

Act Diſjoyning the Presbytry of Strabogie, from the Synod of Aberdeen, *and Annexing the ſame to* Murray.

At Edinburgh, 13. *February* 1700.

Ante Meridiem Seſſ. 11.

THE General Aſſembly agreed, that the Presbytry of *Strabogie*, be Diſjoyned from the United Presbyteries of *Turreff*, *Alford* and *Fordyce*, and again Annexed to the Province of *Murray*, as formerly; In reſpect the cauſe, of its former Diſjunction from *Murray*, is now removed.

V.

Act, Anent a Solemn National Faſt, and Humiliation.

At Edinburgh, 14. *February* 1700.

Poſt Meridiem, Seſſ. 12.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, taking unto their ſerious conſideration, the many dreadful Tokens of the Lord's Anger evidenced, particularly in the continued pinching Dearth (Notwithſtanding of a favourable Harveſt, and Relief thereby in ſome meaſure) whereby

whereby the Number of the Poor and their Neceſſities, have been, and are greatly increaſſed: The great and unuſual Sickneſs and Mortality, which hath gone over all the Land, and doth yet in part continue; The Rebukes from God on the Nation, in diſappointing ſeveral Undertakings, to advance the Trade and Wealth thereof; and particularly, in ſeveral croſs Providences that the *African* and *Indian* Company's Colony in *America* hath met with; notwithſtanding of the many Fervent Prayers made in their behalf; And by a Stupenduous Burning within theſe few Days, of ſo conſiderable a part of *Edinburgh*, the Capital City of the Kingdom, And laſtly, under all theſe, by the woeful Heart-Plagues of Impenitency and Security. And conſidering, that all the Judgements we groan under, are the ſad Effects, and bitter Fruits of our Hainous Sins, againſt God: Such as the fearful Backſlidings and Perſecutions of the late times, mentioned in our former Cauſes of Humiliation, and not yet ſufficiently mourned for; Our continued unfaithfulneſs to God: Notwithſtanding of our Solemn Covenants and Ingagements, and many profeſſed Reſolutions to the contrary; The Atheiſtical and Execrable Principles, ſubverſive of all Religion, ſo much vented and ſpread amongſt us; The groſs Immoralities of Uncleanneſs of all ſorts, Drunkenneſs, Swearing, Sabbath-breaking, and Unrighteous Dealing among Men, and that amongſt Perſons of all Ranks and Qualities, and theſe abounding and continued in: notwithſtanding of many Endeavours uſed to Reclaim and Reform Tranſgreſſors; The Exceſſive Prodigality and Profuſeneſs of ſome, when others are Afflicted with ſo much Want and Poverty; The great ſlighting of Chriſt offered in the Goſpel, and not receiving of Him in our Hearts, and walking worthy of Him in our Lives and Converſations; The great Contempt and Deſpiſing of Church Diſcipline, the froward Oppoſition in many places to the Planting of Churches, and the progreſs of the Goſpel; Our Ungrate forgetfulneſs of the Merciful and ſignal Deliverances that God hath wrought for us, and our Repining at Gods Afflicting Providences, inſtead of ſubmitting to His mighty Hand lifted up againſt us. And the Aſſembly likewiſe conſidering, the deplorable State of the Reformed Churches in *France*, *Piedmount*, the *Palatinate*, and other places where our Brethren, and the Reformation among them, are either brought to Deſolation and Ruine, or are in extream danger by Cruel and long continued Antichriſtian Perſecution; Which inſtead of abating upon the late Peace of *Europe*, the great benefite of which we enjoy, Hath on the contrary greatly encreaſed. Therefore the General Aſſembly, under the ſerious and deep Senſe of the abovementioned Sins and Judgments, hath

thought fit to ſet apart a Day for Solemn Faſting and Humiliation, and the exerciſe of Repentance, and unfeigned Purpoſes of Amendment, which they appoint to be kept upon the day of *March* next to come, being the Thurſday of the ſaid Moneth, over this whole Church and Kingdom: Beſeeching and obteſting all the Lords People, Sincerely and Seriouſly to prepare themſelves thereto, as in the ſight of the Holy and Jealous God, leſt either Carleſneſs, Formality or Siniſtrous ends, turn our Solemn Performances into Sin, and by adding to the provocation, draw upon us yet more dreadful Stroaks; And that they make more particular confeſſion of the forementioned Sins and all others, with a deep Sorrowing for, and Hearty deteſtation of the ſame. As alſo, with humble Submiſſion to, and Acceptance of, the puniſhment of our Iniquities in the Judgments abovementioned, or any others that may be peculiar to Congregations or particular perſons: And that every one, in the moſt ſincere and unfeigned manner Reſolve and Vow amendment both of themſelves, and others as may be incumbent upon them, whether as Magiſtrats, or Miniſters, or otherwiſe in their Reſpective Stations: And that all and every one, do in like manner Reſolve and Vow, the bringing forth Fruits meet for Repentance, in their After-Lives, Carriages and Adminiſtrations; That fervent Application be made and continued in, to the Throne of Grace, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, for the pardon of Sin to each particular perſon, and to the whole Land; That earneſt prayers and Supplications, be made, that the Lord would Graciouſly return to us in Goſpel-Ordinances, and by the breathings of His Spirit, render them more ſavingly ſucceſſful; That our Rulers and Miniſters, and all others may be directed and animated to more effectual and vigorous endeavours for Diſcouraging, Suppreſſing and Puniſhing all ungodlineſs, and for Reforming both themſelves and the Land, without exception; That our King may be long continued a happy Inſtrument for God's Glory, and for the benefit and comfort of this Nation; That he may be Bleſſed and Preſerved in his Perſon and Government, and all wicked Deſigns and Contrivances againſt either, may be Diſcovered, Prevented and Confounded; That all Diſſention, Jealouſie and diſcord may ceaſe, and we all become one in the Lord; That Bowells of Compaſſion may be drawn forth for Relief of the Poor and Needy, and proper means effectually uſed, for recovering them from Idleneſs and Want, and reduceing them to Labour and Order; That the Spring and Seedtime may be Bleſſed; That God would Countenance and Bleſs, and bring to a happy Iſſue, all Juſt and Lawful Deſigns and Endeavours, for advanceing the Trade of the Nation, and be Graciouſly pleaſed to Preſerve, Protect, and Proſper thoſe

who

who are lately gone from us, upon the Great National Concern of a *Plantation* Abroad, and that the ſame may, through the Divine Bleſſing and Favour, prove a Happy and Succeſful Mean for propagating the Goſpel, and Converting the Heathen, in thoſe *Parts*; and that the Miniſters, ſent from this Church, may be ſupported and ſtrengthned for their Work, and ever encouraged in the Lord, againſt all difficulties, and we Refreſhed with a comfortable account of them, and all with them; That our Brethren, in captivity any where, may be Comforted and Relieved; That loſſes both at Home and Abroad may be Sanctified, and alſo made up unto theſe who moſt immediatly ſuffer by them. And laſtly, That our *Proteſtant* Brethren of the Neighbouring Churches under *Perſecution*, may be Supported and Refined in the Furnace, preſerved Faithful in adhering to the Truth; and, in the Lord's good time, delivered.

Some Members of the Aſſembly, being appointed, to Apply, to the Lords, of His Majeſtie's Privy Council, for their Lordſhips Civil Sanction to the Faſt, and for Nameing the Day; Did upon the 16th Day of February 1700. *Report, That their Lordſhips had Granted their Civil Sanction, and Named the* 28. *Day of* March *next, being the laſt Thurſday of that Moneth, for the ſaid Faſt, and Ordered a Proclamation, to be Emitted thereanent.*

VI.

Letter, from the General Aſſembly, to Mr. Alexander Sheilds, *Mr.* Francis Boreland, *Mr.* Archibald Stobo, *and Mr.* Alexander Dalgleiſh.

Edinburgh, 15. February, 1700. *Ante Meridiem.* Seſſ. 13.

Reverend, and Dearly Beloved, Bretheren.

WEE, The Miniſters, and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland*, are much refreſhed, with the account given us, by the Commiſſion of the preceeding Aſſembly, of your ready Submiſſion, and willingneſs, to undertake the Hazardous, but Honourable Service, upon which they ſent you; And with what we have heard ſince our meeting, by *Letters* of *November 9th.* from one of your ſelves, to ſome of our number, of your being got ſafe foreward in your Voyage, the length of *Montſerat*: That, through the Mercy of GOD, you were then ſtill alive, and moſt of you in health, though dangerous Sickneſs had afflicted you, and many of your Company, by the way, and carryed ſome off by Death.

At your ſetting out, you could not but reckon upon Loſſes and Difficulties, but We heartily Bleſs our GOD, with you, that they have not been ſorer and greater. We would not omitt this occaſion, offering at the very time, of our ſitting, To aſſure you, *Our Dear Brethren*, that you are much upon our Hearts, and the Hearts of all the Godly in this Church, who ceaſe not to pour out Fervent Prayers, at the Throne of Grace, in your behalf, and in behalf of the great Goſpel-Work, in which you are engaged.

We have with ſorrow, heard of the Diſtreſſes, that came upon our Country-men, who went before you, and therein cannot but be ſenſible of the Diſpleaſure of the Righteous Lord, juſtly gone forth againſt them and us, for our and their Iniquities: As loudly calling us all to Humiliation and Reformation to Dependance on, and Truſt in the Lord.

We doubt not, but you are endeavouring to improve ſo bitter and aſtoniſhing Diſpenſations to the ſame Bleſſed Ends, both upon your own Spirits, and theſe of your People, and ſo as not to faint under the Chaſtiſements and Rebukes of Providence, but to encourage your ſelves in the Lord your God, who though he ſmite for Sin, yet will return in Mercy to a penitent Reforming People, He will according to his *Promiſe* make the ends of the Earth, to ſee His Salvation; And we hope will yet honour you, and this Church, from which you are ſent, to carry His Name among the Heathen. We are likewayes exceedingly greived, to conſider, that there was ſo much prophanity and Irreligion obſervable, in the Company that you went with, which we fear doth in great meaſure continue, and is a heavy burden and greif of heart to you; Yet it is comfortable, to hear, That there are Serious and Godly *Perſons*, among you; whom, we deſire, together with you, to encourage, in the Lord, and that you may perſevere, in your joint endeavours, for reclaiming the reſt: In order to which, we hope, theſe here ſhall not be wanting, by taking all ſuiteable care, for the future, both with reſpect to thoſe, who may hereafter be ſent to you, and by ſending requiſite Inſtructions, from hence, for ſtrengthening your Hands.

We have appointed a Day of Solemn National Humiliation and *Prayer* to be ſet apart, in this your Mother-Church, for ſeveral weighty Cauſes; And, among the reſt, upon your account; and have ordered, that continual mention be made of you in publick *Prayers*: And we hope, That, through the Mercies of our Gracious GOD, you, being ſafely arrived, in *Caledonia*, or to any happy ſettlement, where God, in His Providence, ſhall direct, you have not omitted the Inſtruction, given you, by the late *Commiſſion*, of keeping a Day, together with all the people there, for Solemn *Prayer* and Faſting

fting, bewalling former Sins, renewing Baptiſmal Engagements, and with the greateſt Seriouſneſs, dedicating your ſelves, and the Land, unto the Lord. And that you do not neglect to pray daily for the Church of *Scotland* by name, and to pray for, and ſtir up the people under your charge, to be dutiful and Loyal to, Our, and Their *Soveraign Lord, King* WILLIAM.

We know, the Commiſſion hath given you, ſuch farder Inſtructions, as may be of uſe, in the various Exigencies of your Work; and expect, you will be careful, by every occaſion, to tranſmit an account of your whole ſtate to the Commiſſion, We reſolve to leave, for your and other Affairs; who we doubt not will acquaint you from time to time, as occaſion may offer, of what may be further condeſcended on, for your Encouragement.

And now, *Dear Brethren*, be Strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might; to whoſe Rich Grace, and tender Mercies, we commend you, and His Honourable Work in your hands: earneſtly praying, that you may be preſerved, directed and ſupported by Him, and not terrified, through any amazement, but eſtabliſhed in your Duty, and your Labours crowned with Succeſs.

Signed in the Name, and at the Appointment, of the National Aſſembly *of the Church of* Scotland, *by*

D. Blair, Moderator.
Jo. Bannnatyne, Clerk.

Directed, *To the Reverend, Mr.* Alexander Scheilds, *Mr.* Francis Boreland, *Mr.* Archibald Strobo, *and Mr.* Alexander Dalgleiſh, *The Miniſters ſent by the Comiſſion of the former* Aſſembly *to the* African *and* Indian *Companie's Colony, In* Caledonia *in* America, *or where ever they are.*

Recommended, to the care, of the Directors of the ſaid Company.

VII.

Act of the General Aſſembly, and Reference to the Commiſſion thereof, in favours of the Preſbyteries of Caithneſs, Orkney, *and* Zetland.

At Edinburgh, 15 February 1700 Years. *Poſt Merid.* Seſſ. 14.

THE General Aſſembly Conſidering, that the Brethren of the Presbyteries of *Caithneſs*, *Orkney*, and *Zetland*, are but few in Number, and that they

cannot conveniently meet in a Synod, for mutual Advice and Aſſiſtance; Do therefore continue the Advices and Inſtructions given to the ſaids Presbyteries, at their Erection; And Referrs to the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, at *Edinburgh* to add to, or alter the ſame, as they ſhall find Cauſe; And empowers the ſaid Commiſſion, to give Advice and Aſſiſtance, to the ſaids Presbyteries, or any of them, as they ſhall be applyed unto, or find needful: And to Determine in all References, Appeals, or Petitions, made or to be made to them by the ſaids Presbyteries, or any Miniſter, or Pariſh, within the Bounds of the ſaids three Presbyteries: And particularly to be Aſſiſting, in Purgeing, and Planting, Kirks; and in Application to the Civil Magiſtrate for repareing, and building *Kirks*, and *Manſes*, and ſettling of *Schools*, in theſe Bounds; And likeways to ſend *Probationers*, to the ſaids Presbyteries, and give them the Allowance, appointed by the laſt Aſſembly, and Commiſſion thereof, Upon Application, for that Effect: And in general, to do all things needful, with Reſpect to the ſaids Presbyteries, that other Commiſſions might have done, or that was committed to them, by former Aſſemblies.

VIII.

Approbation of the Actings, and Proceedings, of the Commiſſion, appointed by the General Aſſembly, 1699.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly having, this day, had reproduced, in their preſence, the Regiſter of the Actings, and Proceedings, of the Commiſſioners, appointed by the late Aſſembly, and having heard the Report of a Committee, of this Aſſemblies own number, that were not Members of the ſaid Commiſſion, but appointed to reviſe, examine, and conſider, the ſaid Regiſter, with their Obſerves thereupon: All the Members of the ſaid Commiſſion, were deſired to remove, and Mr. *John Lawrie* was choſen *Moderator*, and Mr. *Thomas Ruſſel*, *Clerk pro tempore*; The Moderator and Clerk of this Aſſembly, having been Members, of the ſaid Commiſſion, and therefore removed; And the General Aſſembly having ſeriouſly conſidered the ſaid Report, and Anſwers made by the Moderator of the Commiſſion, and other Members thereof, To the ſaid Obſerves; and finding thereby, that the whole Actings, Proceedings, and Concluſions, of the ſaid Commiſſioners, contained in the Regiſters ſubſcribed by Mr. *John Bannatyne* Clerk thereto,

thereto, beginning the *first* day of *February* last, and ending the *Thirty one* of *January* last, Do evidence much Wisdom, Prudence, Diligence, and Faithfulness, and that the said Commission, have proceeded orderly, and formally in the things, that came before them According to their Commission and Instructions: Therefore this General Assembly, by their Vote did, and hereby do, ratify and approve the saids Actings, Proceedings, and Conclusions, of the saids Commissioners, contained in the Register thereof. And the Members of the Commission being called in, The same was intimate to them; And the Moderator gave them the Thanks, of this Assembly, For their good Service; and then the Moderator, and Clerk, of this Assembly, did again take their places.

IX.

Act anent revising of the Registers, of Church-Judicatories.

At Edinburgh, 16 February 1700. *Ante Meridiem*, Sess: 15.

THE General Assembly Taking to their Consideration, the Overture transmitted by the late General Assembly, to Presbyteries, concerning the revising of the Registers of Church-Judicatories, and having heard the same, several times, read in their own presence; as also having heard the Report, of the Committee for Overtures, concerning the Opinion of Presbyteries thereanent: And the General Assembly, considering the great Import to this Church, that all its Registers be exact, and well kept, Do require all Provincial Synods, and Presbyteries, to be careful in revising of the Registers of the Judicatories, under their immediate Inspection; And that they appoint, a competent number of the most Fit and Experienced Ministers, for that Work; and when they find nothing to challenge, in any Register, they give the same, the Attestation following, *viz.*

"The Provincial Synod of having heard the Report, "of these, appointed to revise the Presbytery Book of "and having heard their Remarks thereupon, and the saids "Presbyteries Answer thereto; And it having been enquired, "by the Moderator, if any other had any Complaints, to make "against the Actings of the said Presbytery, and nothing ap- "pearing censureable, Ordered the Clerk to attest this in their "Presbytery-Book.

And so, for the Registers of Provincial Synods, and Kirk-Sessions *mutatis mutandis*; But if there be any thing truely censureable, in the said Book, and in it self Material, with

respect to Discipline, that it be recorded, as censured, both in the Synod-Book, and Attestation.

X.

Act anent Schoolmasters, Chaplains, Governours, and Pedagogues.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly took to their Consideration the Overture transmitted to Presbyteries, by the late General Assembly, concerning School-masters, Chaplains, Governours, and Pedagogues, and having heard the same, read over in their own presence, as also the Report, of the Committee for Overtures, thereanent, and concerning the Opinion of Presbyteries thereupon, The General Assembly did, and hereby do, Appoint, all Presbyries, to take Special, Particular, and exact Notice, of all Schoolmasters, Chaplains, Governours, and Pedagogues of Youth, within their respective bounds, and oblige them to subscribe the Confession of Faith, of this Church, as the Confession of their Faith; And, in case of continued Negligence (after Admonition) Errour, or Immoralities, or of their teaching Erroneous Principles, or not being careful to Educate these, under their Charge, in the Protestant Reformed Religion: The Presbytery, with respect to School-masters, is to apply to the Civil Magistrate in Burghs, and Heretors in Landward; and with respect to Governours, Chaplains and Pedagogues, to Masters, for removing such Persons from these Offices; And if this be not remeeded by them, that the Presbytery, with respect to School-masters, apply to the Commission of Parliament for Visitation, of Schools and Colledges. And it is hereby appointed, That an Account be given in, every half year, to the Presbytery, by Ministers, what School-masters, Chaplains, Governours, and Pedagogues, are in their respective Paroches. And the General Assembly recommends, to Masters of Colledges, to take Care, and use their Authority, for the same ends, that the Delinquents may be proceeded against, by the respective Presbyteries, and censured, upon clear evidence of their Guilt.

XI. *Act*

XI.

Act anent subscribing the Confession of Faith

At Edinburgh, 17 February 1700

Ante Meridiem Sess: 16.

THE General Assembly Appoints, That all Ministers and Ruleing Elders, belonging to this National Church, subscribe the Confession of Faith, As the Confession of their Faith, according to the Act of Assembly 1690, and the *Formula* agreed upon in the Assembly, held in the Year 1694, Act 11*th*, ¶. 6. And that this be done, betwixt and the next General Assembly.

XII.

Commission to some Ministers, and Elders, to visite the Bounds of the Provinces of Angus *and* Merns, Aberdeen, Murray *and* Ross.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly of this National Church, taking to Consideration, how requisite it is, That some Ministers and Elders, be appointed, for Visitation of Kirks on the *North side of Tay*, and discussing such Affairs, as this Assembly shall think fit to refer thereto: Doth therefore by these presents, Nominate Commissionate and Appoint, Mr. *Patrick Cuming Minister at Ormeston*, Mr. *John Stirling at Greenock*, Mr *Hugh White at Larbert*, Mr. *James Hadow, Professor of Divinity at St. Andrews*, Mr. *James Ramsay at Eymouth*, Mr. *Samuel Charters at Innerkeithing*, Mr. *Joseph Drew at New-Munkland*, *and* Mr. *Andrew Broun at Spot*, Ministers; *Walker Stewart of Pardivan*, *and James Pringle of Buckholm*, Ruleing Elders, To be a Commission of this Assembly, for the Effect foresaid, and appoints them to have their first Meeting, in the Church of *Dundee*, upon the second *Wednesday* of *June* next, at two of the clock in the afternoon, and then to proceed, through the Provinces of *Angus*, and *Mearnes Aberdeen*, *Murray*, and *Ross*. And it is hereby declared, that the Ministers and Ruleing Elders of the Bounds, are to be Members of the said Commission, within their respective Presbyteries; unless any of them be found Parties: With power to the said Commission, to chuse their own Moderator and Clerk; and the said Commission are hereby empowered, to visite Presbyteries, and Parishes,

Purge and Plant Churches, Redreſs Grievances, and call to an Accompt, and try Perſons diſſeminating erroneous Principles, and heretical Doctrines; And generally to do all things, conform to the Inſtructions, given to the Commiſſion, ſent *North* in the Year 1694, and the Committee ſent to *Roſs*, *Sutherland*, *Caithneſs*, and *Orkney*, in the Year 1698. And the ſaid Commiſſion, are hereby appointed, to make Enquiry, what Grouth Popery makes in thoſe Bounds; And in caſe they find traffiqueing *Papiſts*, or *Prieſts*, and Jeſuits in any of theſe Bounds, that they apply to the Magiſtrates of the Place, for Execution of the Laws, againſt them; And the General Aſſembly Exhorts and Requires, the ſaid Commiſſion to Act deliberately, in all their Procedure, and for that end, to ſtay a competent time, in each Province they come to, as the Exigence of the Bounds requires: and the Presbyteries of the ſeveral Bounds, are deſired, and required, to prepare any Buſineſs, they have to be cognoſced by the ſaid Commiſſion; And for that end to cite Parties, in the name of the ſaid Commiſſion, to appear before the ſame; thereby to gain time. And in caſe the Commiſſion find it convenient, That any of the Brethren of the *Presbyteries*, in whoſe bounds they ſhall be, for the time, Concurre with them to viſite the bounds of the next *Presbytrie*, That then, upon the Commiſſion's deſireing the ſame, the ſaid *Presbytrie*, in whoſe bounds they are, are hereby required, to nominate ſome of their number, to join with the ſaid Commiſſion, in viſiting the neighbouring Presbytery, and that they diſcuſs all References and Appeals, that ſhall be Remitted to them, By this Aſſembly: And the ſaid Commiſſion are prohibite, to meddle in any thing, but what is hereby committed to them. And laſtly, they are to be countable to, and cenſurable by the next enſueing General Aſſembly, for all their Actings.

XIII.

Commiſſion by the General Aſſembly, to ſome Miniſters and a Ruling Elder to viſite Zetland, Orknay, *and* Caithneſs.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church of *Scotland*, taking to their conſideration, a Reference made to them by the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, anent ſending a Committee, to viſite *Zetland*, and having heard ſome Letters from the Brethren of the Presbytery there, earneſtly deſireing the ſame; And being

being convinced of the great Need there is, of sending some Ministers, to these Bounds, Did, and do hereby, Nominate, Commissionate, and Appoint, Mr. *James Hart Minister at Ruthe*, Mr. *John Brand at Borronstounes*, Mr. *John Sandilands at Dolphingtoun*, Mr. *Alexander Lauder at Mordingtoun*, Mr. *James Graham at Holme in Orkney*, Mr. *Patrick Guthrie at Sanday there*, Mr. *William Blaw at Westray there*, Ministers, *and Samuel Maclelan Stewart Principal* of *Orkney and Zetland*, Ruleing Elder; To be a Commission, for visiting the said Presbytry of *Zetland*, Churches within the Bounds thereof, and for assisting the Brethren of the said Presbytry, in their Presbyterial Work: And appoints the Brethren, of the said Commission, abovenamed, that lives be South *Tay*, to meet at *Edinburgh*, upon the first day of *Aprile* next, and be in readiness, to take their Voyage, and with the first fair Wind thereafter, to go to *Zetland*, and as soon as they can, to meet with the Brethren of the Presbytry thereof, (who are hereby declared to be Members of the said Commission) With Power to them, to chuse their own Moderator and Clerk; and they are hereby Empowered to do, & Required to observe, what is committed to them, by the particular Instructions, to be given them, by this Assembly or Commission thereof, appointed to meet at *Edinburgh*; And to proceed, in all things that comes before them, according to the Constitutions of this Church, and Acts of the General Assemblies thereof: And in case they shall find convenient, either to go by *Caithness* and *Orkney*, or return that Way, They are hereby Empowered to do all things in these Provinces, for the good of the Church, that they have by their Commission, to do in *Zetland*. And lastly, appoints the said Commission, to report an Account of their Diligence in the said Affairs, to the next ensueing General Assembly; To whom they are to be countable, for all their Actings.

XIV.

Act in favours of the Ministers, sent North *on the several Commissions.*

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly declares, That the Brethren, named to go North, upon Commissions, and that shall go to the places appointed, according to their Commissions, shall be exonered, from going in supplies to the North, when it comes to their Turn; And the Presbytries from whom they go, are hereby appointed, carefully to supply the Churches, of the said Brethren, with Preaching, dureing their absence on the said Commissions.

XV.

Act Anent Scandalous and Contumacious Perſons.

At Edinburgh, 19. February 1700.

Ante Meridiem Seſſ. 17.

THE General Aſſembly took to their Conſideration, the Overture Tranſmitted to Presbytries, by the late General Aſſembly, concerning Scandalous and Contumacious Perſons; And having heard the ſame Read, in their own Preſence; As alſo the Report of the Committee for Overtures thereanent, and concerning the Opinion, of Presbytries thereupon: The General Aſſembly Did by their Vote, and hereby Do, Al ow Presbytries, if they find Cauſe, to ſend in to the General Aſſembly, or Commiſſion thereof, the Names of Scandalous Perſons, of whatever Quality, Guilty of Groſs Immoralities, and Contumacious to Church-Diſcipline; with an full Extract of the Proceſs, that they may proceed againſt them, as they ſee Cauſe.

XVI.

Act Anent the Method of making Overtures and Acts, of the General Aſſembly.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly took to their Conſideration, the Overtures Tranſmitted to Presbytries, by the late Aſſembly, concerning the method of paſſing Overtures, and Acts of Aſſembly, and having heard the ſaids Overtures Read, in their own Preſence; As alſo, the Report of the Committee for Overtures thereanent, and concerning the Opinion of Presbytries thereupon: The General Aſſembly Did by their Vote, and hereby Do, Enact and Appoint, That when any thing of publick Concern, and great Weight, is propoſed to the General Aſſembly, to be paſt as Overtures, or Acts, for a ſtanding Rule to the Church, after the firſt Reading, it be delayed till the next day of the Aſſemblies ſitting, and ly on the Table, to be ſeen and Conſidered by all the Members; And likewayes, when any thing is paſt, as Overtures, by the General Aſſembly, It is Ordained, that all and every Presbytry Read them, publickly, in their Presbyterial

terial meeting, once before the first meeting of the Synod next after the General Assembly, and Consider of them, and that this be Recorded in their Presbytry Book, and enquired into by their Synods, in visiting Presbytry Books; As also it is hereby Recommended to all Presbyteries, to send in an Account of their Judgement, and Opinion thereanent, with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, in write, but as briefly as may be, and the Overtures to be printed after the Acts; And Lastly, It is hereby Enacted, and Appointed, That each Minister, and Kirk-Session, have a Copy of all the printed Acts of the General Assembly, and that Enquiry be made into this, at Presbyterial and Synodical Censures and their Diligence recorded.

XVII.

Act discharging the printing of any part of Ecclesiastick Processes without Allowance.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly took to their Consideration, the Overture transmitted to Presbyteries, by the late Assembly, against the printing of any Paper, to be presented to Church-Judicatories, without Allowance; And having heard the saids Overtures in their own presence, as also the Report of the Committee for Overtures thereanent; And concerning the Opinion of Presbyteries thereupon: The General Assembly did by their Vote, and hereby do Prohibite, and Discharge, any Person or Persons, to Presume to print any Petition, Address, Appeal, Reasons, or Answers, or any part, of any Process, to be brought in to the General Assembly, or any other Church-Judicatory, without Leave, given by the respective Judicatories, before whom the same is in Dependance; With Certification, that no respect shall be had thereto, In case they controveen this, by Reading or considering the same.

XVIII

Act Regulating the Reception of such as come off from Popery.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly took to their consideration, the Overture transmitted to Presbytries, by the late Assembly, concerning Papists, and having heard the same, read in their own presence, as also the report of the Commitee for Overtures thereanent, And concerning the Opinion, of Presbyteries thereupon: The General Assembly did Judge, that a private Acknowledgment of a Papist, Renounceing

that Religion verbally, is not ſufficient to admit them to Church-Priviledges: And therefore appoints, that the Reception of any that comes off, from Popery, to the Communion of this Church, be the Deed of a Church-Judicatory; And that they Subſcribe the Confeſſion of Faith, as the Confeſſion of their Faith.

XIX.

Commiſſion by the General Aſſembly to ſome Miniſters and Elders, to meet at Edinburgh, *for Planting Vacant Kirks in the* North, *and other Affairs Referred to them.*

At Edinburgh, the 19. Day of February 1700.

Poſt Meridiem Seſſ. 18.

THE General Aſſembly Conſidering, That there are yet ſeveral Vacant Churches on the North ſide of *Tay*; As likewayes, That there are ſeveral weighty Affairs, which this Aſſembly cannot overtake; Do therefore find it needful, That there be a Commiſſion granted, to ſome Miniſters and Elders, for Planting theſe Vacant Churches, and doing what other Affairs ſhall be Referred to them: And for that end, do hereby Nominate, Commiſſionate and Appoint, Mr. *Daniel Campbel*, and Mr. *Daniel Mackay*, for the Presbytry of *Inverary*; Mr. *Walter Campbel*, and Mr. *Daniel Macklawrine*, for the Presbytry of *Denoon*; Mr. *David Simſon*, and Mr. *Dougal Campbel*, for the Presbytry of *Kintyre*; Mr. *Martine Mackpherſon*, for the Presbytry of *Skye*; Mr. *Samuel Nairn*, Mr. *Thomas Black*, and Mr. *Alexander Glaſs*, for the united Presbytries of *Perth* and *Dunkeld*; Mr. *William Reid*, and Mr. *William Spence* for the Presbytry of *Auchterardor*; Mr. *John Forreſter*, and Mr. *Hugh White*, for the Presbytry of *Stirling*; Mr. *Michael Potter*, and Mr. *Alexander Douglaſs*, for the Presbytry of *Dumblane*, Mr. *Samuel Charters*, and Mr. *Allan Logan*, for the Presbytry of *Dumfermline*; Mr. *Archibald Riddel*, and Mr. *John Shaw*, for the Presbytry of *Kirkcaldy*; Mr. *James Pitcairn*, and Mr. *Edward Jameſon*, for the Presbytry of *Coupar*; Mr. *James Haddow*, Mr. *John Anderſon* Miniſter, and Mr. *William Moncrief* at *Largo*, for the Presbytry of St. *Andrews*; Mr. *Samuel Johnſtoun*, and Mr. *James Ramſay*, for the united Presbytries of *Dundee*, *Meigle* and *Forfar*; Mr. *Francis Melvil*, and Mr. *John Ferguſon*, for the united Presbytries of *Brechen*, *Aberbrothick* and *Mearnes*; Mr. *James Osburn*, Mr. *Alexander Mitchel*, and Mr. *Thomas Thomſon*, for the united Presbytries of *Aberdeen* and *Kincarden*; Mr. *Hugh Innes*, and Mr. *Peter Darling*,

ling, for the united Presbytries of *Turreff*, *Alford* and *Fordyce*; Mr. *John Mulliken*, for the united Presbytries of *Ellen*, *Deer*, and *Garriock*; Mr. *Alexander Forbes*, and Mr. *James Thomson*, for the united Presbytries in *Murray*; Mr. *William Stewart*, and Mr. *Walter Denoon*, for the united Presbytries of *Ross* and *Southerland*; Mr. *William Innes*, and Mr. *John Monro*, for the Presbytry of *Caithness*; Mr. *Thomas Baikie*, and Mr. *John Cobb*, for the Presbytry of *Orkney*; Mr. *James Kay*, and Mr. *William Binning*, for the Presbytry of *Zetland*; Mr. *Gilbert Rule*, Mr. *George Meldrum*, Mr. *David Blair*, Mr. *William Crichton*, Mr *John Law*, Mr. *George Hamilton*, Mr. *David Williamson*, Mr *Thomas Wilkie* in *Canongate*, Mr. *John Moncrief*, Mr. *James Webster*, Mr. *John Hamilton*, Mr. *George Campbel*, Mr. *William Wischart*, Mr. *Andrew Bowie*, and Mr. *George Andrews*, for the Presbytry of *Edinburgh*; Mr. *George Barclay*, Mr. *William Burnet*, Mr. *Alexander Dalgleish*; and Mr. *Thomas Miller*, for the Presbytry of *Linlithgow*; Mr. *Robert Livingston*, and Mr. *Robert Baillie*, for the Presbytry of *Biggar*; Mr. *James Anderson*, and Mr. *Archibald Torie*, for the Presbytry of *Peebles*; Mr. *Patrick Cuming*, Mr. *David Walker*, and Mr. *Robert Sandilands*, for the Presbytry of *Dalkeith*; Mr. *James Clerk*, Mr. *Matthew Reid*, and Mr. *Mungo Watson*, for the Presbytry of *Haddingtoun*; Mr. *John Forrest*, and Mr. *Robert Stark*, for the Presbytry of *Dunbar*; Mr. *Alexander Cowden*, and Mr. *Archibald Borthwick*, for the Presbytry of *Dunse*; Mr. *James Ramsay*, at *Eymouth*, and Mr. *John Dysart*, for the Presbytry of *Chirnside*; Mr. *John Vetch*, and Mr. *George Johnston*, for the Presbytry of *Exsleton*; Mr. *John Rutherford*, and Mr. *Charles Gordon*, for the Presbytry of *Selkrig*; Mr. *John Gaudie*, and Mr. *James Noble*, for the Presbytry of *Kelso*; Mr *Gabriel Semple*, and Mr. *Nicol Edgar*, for the Presbytry of *Jedburgh*; Mr. *William Vetch*, and Mr. *Robert Blair*, for the Presbytry of *Drumfrees*; Mr. *Thomas Shields*, and Mr. *James Elder*, for the Presbytry of *Penpont*; Mr. *George Mulliken*, and Mr. *William Aikman*, for the Presbytry of *Lochmaben*; Mr. *James Armstrang*, and Mr. *John Mein*, for the Presbytry of *Middlebie*; Mr. *Andrew Cameron*, and Mr. *James Monteith*, for the Presbytry of *Kircudbright*; Mr. *Robert Rowan*, and Mr. *Andrew Ewart*, for the Presbytry of *Wigtoun*; Mr. *Thomas Castillan*, and Mr. *Walter Laurie*, for the Presbytry of *Stranraver*; Mr. *Andrew Rodger*, Mr. *John Lawrie*, Mr. *John Hunter*, and Mr. *James Gilchrist* Senior, for the Presbytry of *Aire*; Mr. *Patrick Verner*, and Mr. *Francis Finlayson*, for the Presbytry of *Irving*; Mr. *John Ritchie*, and Mr. *Alexander King* for the Presbytry of *Dumbarton*; Mr. *Patrick Simson*, Mr. *Andrew Turner*, and Mr. *Robert Tylour*, for the Presbytry of *Paisley*; Mr. *William Dunlop*, Mr. *Neil Gillies*, and Mr. *John*

Govean, for the Presbytry of *Glasgow*; Mr. *Robert Wyllie*, and Mr. *John Hamilton*, for the Presbytry of *Hamiltoun*; Mr. *Thomas Linning*, and Mr. *John Bannatyne*, for the Presbytry of *Lanerick* Ministers: *George* Earl of *Melvil* Lord President of the Privy Council, *George* Earl of *Sutherland*, *John* Earl of *Tullibardine*, *Charles* Lord *Tester*, *William* Lord *Forbes*, *John* Lord *Bellhaven*, *James* Master of *Carmichael*, Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *Northberwick* Lord President of the Session, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormiestoun* Lord Thesaurer Depute, Sir *James Stewart* of *Goodtrees* Lord Advocate, Sir *Coline Campbel* of *Aberuchil*, Sir *John Hamilton*, of *Halcraig*, Sir *David Home* of *Crossrig* three of the Lords of Session, Mr. *John Campbel* Brother to the Earl of *Argyle*, Mr. *Francis Montgomery* of *Giffan*, Colonel *John Erskine* of *Caridden*, Sir *Coline Campbel* of *Ardkinlass*, Sir *John Home* of *Blattader*, Sir *John Swinton* of that Ilk, Sir *William Cunninghame* of *Cunninghame-Head*, Sir *Archibald Mure* of *Thorntoun*, Sir *John Clerk* of *Pennycook*, Sir *William Baird* of *Newbaith*, Sir *Adam Gordon* of *Dalfoly*, Sir *Thomas Burnet* His Majestie's Physician, *William Baillie* of *Lamingtoun*, *Adam Drummond* of *Meggins*, *George Mowcrief* of *Readie*, *Duncan Forbes* of *Colloden*, *Thomas Kilpatrick* of *Closeburn* younger, Captain *John Erskine*, *George Home* of *Kello*, Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, *Thomas Mitchel* Provost of *Aberdeen*, *John Anderson* of *Dowhil* Provost of *Glasgow*, *Walter Stewart* of *Pardivan*, *James Young* of *Neatherfield*, *William Muir* of *Glanderstoun*, Mr. *James Boswel* of *Auchinleck* Advocat, *Adam Broun* present Baillie in *Edinburgh*, *James Mackelurg* Dean of Gild thereof, *Hugh Blair* late Dean of Gild there, Mr. *Archibald Dickson* of *Tourlands*, and Mr. *Robert Cook* Advocat Ruleing Elders; To be Commissioners of the General Assembly, to the effect before and after mentioned; With full power, and Commission to the saids Persons, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared, to be any *Fifteen* of the saids Commissioners, whereof *Nine*, are always to be *Ministers*, To meet and conveen within the Assembly-House at *Edinburgh* the *First* day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten Hours in the Forenoon, and afterwards to meet, the *second Wednesday of March*, and *first Wednesdays of June*, *September*, and *December*, and oftner, where, and when they shall think needful and convenient; with power to the said Commission, to chuse their own Moderator and Clerk. And sicklike the General Assembly fully Empowers, and Authorizes the saids Commissioners, or their *Quorum*, to Consider, Cognosce, and finally Determine, as they shall see Cause, in every thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given them by this Assembly, as fully and freely as if the same were in these presents, at full length insert, and

set down: As also to Consider, Cognosce, and finally Determine, in all References, Appeals, and other matters, particularly Referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly: All which are holden as herein expreſt; And the General Assembly doth hereby prohibite, and Discharge the saids Commissioners to medle, in any other matters, then what is contained herein; Declaring also, that in and for their Actings, they shall be countable to and Censurable by, the next ensueing General Assembly of this Church; And lastly declares, that this Commission shall continue untill the meeting, of the next General Assembly.

XX.

Instructions to the Commission, appointed by the General Assembly, to meet at Edinburgh,

Eadem Sessione.

I. THAT this Commission, as often as they shall see cause, apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for their countenanceing of, and concurring with the Judicatories of the Church, in what the Law allows, and for putting the Laws in Execution, against Prophaneness, and Regulating the *Poor*, by providing Maintainance, and Labour for them; and particularly, anent settling Vacant Congregations, and redressing any Grievances, which may fall out.

II That when any of the Ministers, who served under the late Prelacy, whose Lives and Doctrines may render them useful to this Church, Do apply for Reception into the Government; The General Assembly do Empower, and Recommend to this Commission, that they receive them according to the 13*th* ¶. of the 16*th* Act of the General Assembly 1697.

III. That this Commission, in Disposal of his *Majestie's* Gifts to this Church, do particularly take care, that the Encouragement granted by the last Assembly, to *Probationers*, who are to go *North*, to preach, be rendered effectual; and that they cause defray the extraordinary Charges, that several Ministers of the *North*, have been at, in carrying on the Planting of the *North*, and other publick Affairs, of the Church there: And for defraying the Charges of these sent on Commissions, and of such Probationers, as shall yet be sent, to the *North*, particularly *Caithness Orknay* and *Zetland*.

IV. The Commission is to Cognosce, and finally Determine, in all References made to them by this Assembly, and in all References and Appeals, for *transporting Ministers*

niſters to the North, which ſhall be orderly brought before them, according to the Overtures made thereanent, the laſt Aſſembly.

V. This Commiſſion is alſo to Correſpond with the State, anent *Faſts*, and *Thankſgivings*, as occaſion requires, and to ſpecify the Cauſes thereof.

VI. This Commiſſion is to give *Advice* and *Aſſiſtance*, to any *Synod* or *Presbytry*, in difficult caſes, as they ſhall be applyed unto by them, for that Effect.

VII. That this Commiſſion be careful to ſupply, with good and able Miniſters, the Ships and Colonies of the *African* and *Indian Company* as they ſhall be applyed unto, by the Court of Directors of the ſaid Company, from time to time, and to ſend Miniſters to them, either by Miſſion, Ordination, or Tranſportation; And it is referred to this Commiſſion to facilitate, by all means poſſible, their proviſion with Miniſters, and to do every thing, for the encouragement of theſe that are, or afterward ſhall be ſent; In regard, this General Aſſembly cannot overtake it.

VIII. This Commiſſion is empowered, to enquire how the *Miniſters tranſported*, by this General Aſſembly, or ſhall be tranſported, by their Commiſſion *obey*; And in caſe of Diſobedience, that they ſuſpend the Diſobedient Perſons, for three Moneths, and in caſe they do not obey after the three Moneths are elapſed, That then they be depoſed *Simpliciter*: And this particularly to be applyed, in the Caſe of Mr. *David Pitcairn*, formerly tranſported from *Creich* to *Forreſſe*, if he diſobey.

IX. This Commiſſion, or their Moderator, in the Intervalls of the Commiſſion, are Empowered to receive Calls, legaly proceeded in, and to tranſmitt them, to the reſpective Presbyteries intereſted, and in caſe of References, or Appeals, to the ſaid Commiſſion, That they finally determine therein, According to the former Acts of Aſſemblies, for expediteing Tranſportations, to the *North*.

X. This Commiſſion is to give all due Encouragement, and Aſſiſtance to any propoſals, may be made to them, anent Endeavours for *Reformation of Manners*, and for the effectual Curbing of Prophanity; And that they apply in a competent manner, to the Government for that End.

XI This Commiſſion is to look out for ſome perſons, who may be fit to be Clerk to the General Aſſembly, and propoſe them to the next Aſſembly.

XXI.

Act anent the Supply of the North *with Ministers and Probationers.*

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly taking to Consideration, That there are yet several Vacant Kirks in the *North* Did and hereby do, Enact and Appoint, That Nine Actual Ministers be sent in manner aftermentioned, for Supplying thereof each Four Moneths untill the next Assembly; begining the First Day of *March* next; Five whereof to the Province of *Angus* and *Mearns*, of which three to the united Presbytries of *Dundee*, *Meegle* and *Forfar*; And Two to the united Presbytry of *Brechen*, *Aberbrothick* and *Mearns*; Item, Two to the Province of *Aberdeen*, till Mr. *Thomas Blackwal* be Admitted there, and one only thereafter; Item, Two to the Province of *Murray*, to be proportioned as followes, *viz.* The Provincial Synod of *Glasgow* and *Aire*, is to send three Actual Ministers, of which one to the united Presbytries of *Dundee*, *Meegle* and *Forfar*, One to the united Presbytries of *Brechen*, *Aberbrothick* and *Mearns*, And One to *Aberdeen*; Item, the Provincial Synod of *Fife*, is to send One Actual Minister, to the Province of *Murray*; and the Provincial Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, is to send One Actual Minister, to the Province of *Aberdeen*; Item, the Provincial Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, is to send One Actual Minister to the Presbytries of *Brechen*, *Aberbrothick* and *Mearns*; Item, the Provincial Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, is to send Three Actual Ministers, whereof One to the united Presbytries of *Dundee*, *Meegle* and *Forfar*, One to *Aberdeen*, And One to the Province of *Murray*: But after Mr. *Thomas Blackwal* is setled at *Aberdeen*, the said Synod of *Lothian*, is to be eased of the Supply of that place.

And likeways the General Assembly does hereby Enact and Appoint, That Eighteen Probationers be sent *North*, of which Six are to be sent to the Province of *Angus* and *Mearns*, *viz.* Three to the united Presbytries of *Meegle*, *Dundee* and *Forfar*, Three to the united Presbytries of *Brechen*, *Aberbrothick*, and *Mearns*, Item, Five to the Province of *Aberdeen*, whereof One is to have the *Irish* Language; Item, Five to the Province of *Murray*, whereof Two are to have the *Irish* Language; Item, One to the Presbytry of *Zetland*; And lastly, One having *Irish* to the Bounds of the Presbytry of *Dunkeld*: And it is hereby declared, That the saids Probationers are to be sent on the same Terms and Conditions, and with the same Encouragements, that the Twenty Probationers were sent by the last Assembly.

XXII.

Act and Recommendation, anent Mortifications, and Viſitations of Pariſhes.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly recommends, to all Presbyteries to be diligent and careful, in Viſiteing the Pariſhes, within their Bounds, and take particular notice, how all Sums of Money mortified, or otherwiſe belonging to the Poor of the Pariſh, have been managed, and applyed, from time to time; And if they ſhall find any Dilapidations of any ſuch Sums, that theſe guilty thereof, may be purſued, according to Law: And that the ſeveral Synods, take Account of the Presbyteries within their Bounds, their Diligence therein.

XXIII.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters, and Elders, for viſiteing the Presbytery of Midlebee.

At Edinburgh the 20 day of February 1700.

Ante Merid: Seſſ: 19:

THE General Aſſembly, having heard the report of the Committee for Overtures, anent the Grievances, repreſented by the Commiſſioners from the Presbytry of *Midlebee*, Judged that in regard the Greiveances of the ſaid Presbytry, are ſo exceedingly great, It is expedient that a Committee ſhould be appointed to go thither, againſt the end of *July*, to conſider theſe Grievances, and to do what they can for remedy thereof; And that betwixt and that time, the Synod of *Drumfrees*, either by themſelves, or Committee, do what they can to remedy theſe Grievances: And that accordingly, if they obtain any good Effect, the ſaid Presbytry is to advertiſe the Committee of this Aſſembly, not to come. And the General Aſſembly does hereby declare, that there ſhall be no Tranſportations, from that Presbytry, till the next General Aſſembly, without their own conſent, upon any Calls to be given; But it is always declared, that this is but prejudice, of any Proceſſes, already commenced. And the General Aſſembly, Nominats, and Appoints, Mr. *Gabriel Semple Miniſter at Jedburgh*, Mr. *John Bannatyne at Lanerick*, Mr. *George Mullekine at Moffat*, Mr. *Matthew Reid at North-*

Northberwick, Mr. *Alexander Orrock at Hawick*, Mr. *Nicol Edgar at Hopkirk* Mr. *James Guthrie at Irongray, and* Mr. *Robert Blair at Holy-rood* Miniſters, The *Lairds of Falnaſh* and *Whitelaw* Ruleing Elders, to be Members of the ſaid Committee, to meet at *Langholm* the laſt Wedneſday of *July* next, with the Members of the ſaid Presbytry of *Midlebee*; And the ſaid Committee are hereby empowered to chuſe their own Moderator and Clerk, and to proceed againſt all perſons guilty of groſs Immoralities, according to the Acts of the General Aſſembly, and Order and Diſcipline of this Church; and to endeavour to remove the Grievances of the Brethren of the ſaid Presbytry, and in order thereunto to viſite the ſaid Presbytry, in the uſual manner; And endeavour to obtain the Aſſiſtance of perſons of Intereſt and Quality, in theſe parts to render the Actings and Proceedings of Church Judicatories, the more Effectual: And this Committee is to be countable to, and Cenſureable by the next General Aſſembly.

XXIV.

Act for Rendering Effectual, the Supplies of the North.

At Edinburgh, 20 of February 1700. *Poſt Merid:* Seſſ: 20.

THE General Aſſembly does hereby declare, that all former Acts, for rendering effectual the Supply of the North with Miniſters, not expreſly reſcinded, ſhall be in full force, and Referrs to the Commiſſion, to ſee to the Execution thereof.

XXV

OVERTURES, Tranſmitted by the General Aſſembly held in the year 1700, to the ſeveral Presbytries, within this National Church; That they may conſider the ſame, and ſend their Opinion thereanent, to the next General Aſſembly, who may paſs the ſame in Acts, if the more general Opinion of this Church agree thereunto.

Anent Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, and their ſubſcribing the Confeſſion of Faith.

1 THAT all Commiſſions to Miniſters and Elders, from Presbyteries, Univerſities, and Royal Burghs, to ſubſequent Aſſemblies, bear, that they have ſubſcribed the Confeſſion of Faith of this Church, according to the 11*th*, Act of this Aſſembly.

2 That no Miniſter or Elder be Nominate and Commiſſionate, to be a Member of the General Aſſembly of this Church, by any Presbytry, Burgh or Univerſity, But ſuch who uſually reſide in, and have a Relation to the Presbytry Burgh or Univerſity, they are commiſſioned from.

Anent Citations, in caſes of Tranſportation of Miniſters.

3 THAT in caſes of Tranſportation, when the defending Party and Pariſh, are to be ſummoned, that the Miniſter himſelf being ſummoned *apud Acta* at the Presbytry, or if abſent by the Presbytries letter to be preſent, at the day appointed, for hearing the cauſe, he alſo be ordered, to intimate out of the Pulpit, to Heritors, Elders, and others concerned in the Pariſh, That there is ſuch a Call, and ſuch a Tranſportation deſigned; And if any of them have a mind to defend their Right in their Miniſter, they are to be preſent at the Presbytry, on ſuch a day, and ready to make their Defences, for which purpoſe the Call with the Reaſons thereof, are to be given or tranſmitted to the Miniſter, by him to be communicate to them; This courſe will prevent the rableing of Meſſengers, by the unruly Mob, and horrid prophanation of the Lords Day, which falls out in ſome caſes.

Which Overture, being conſidered by the General Aſſembly they allow thereof if the Presbytry concerned, ſhall ſee cauſe to take that Courſe, and declares that it ſhall be a valide Citation, it being always optional to the Presbytry to follow this courſe, or to do it by their Officiar as formerly.

The

XXVI

THE next General Assembly of this National Church, is to be held at *Edinburgh*, the *Nineteenth* day of *February* in the year One Thousand seven hundred and one.

The Assembly being closed, the members were dismissed with prayer, singing the 122 *Psalm from* 6 *Verse, to the end; And pronouncing of the Blessing.*

Collected and Extracted from the Records, of the General Assembly. By me
J. Bannatyne *Cls Syn. National.*

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Recommendation to the Commission at *Edinburgh*, in favours of Mr. *James Thomson* at *Elgins*. *Ibid.*
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Acts appointing Mr. *David Shaw* Minister at *Aberdalgie* to go in supply to the Province of *Aberdeen*, and Mr. *Thomas Berrill* to *Murray*. *Ibid.*
The Minister of *Eccles*, appointed to perform the Ministerial Function to the people of *Baughousewalls*, and a Reference to the Synod of *Merse* thereanent *Ibid.*
Reference to the Commission for *Zetland*, and Presbytry of *Orknay*, in favours of Mr. *Richard Mein*. *Ibid.*
Reference to the Commission at *Edinburgh* to apply to the Council anent Incorrect Bibles. *Ibid.*
Reference to the Commission at *Edinburgh* anent Mr. *John Bannatynes* Petition for his Salary. *Ibid.*
Reference to the Commission at *Edinburgh*, anent the Petition, of the Officiars, that attends the Assembly. *Ibid.*
Committee for reviseing the Minuts of this Assembly *Ibid.*

FINIS.

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